

# *Mechanical Memories Magazine*

ISSUE 54

MARCH 2011



*The only UK magazine for collectors and enthusiasts  
of Vintage Coin-operated Amusement Machines*

# Mechanical Memories Magazine

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# Editorial

Hello, and here we are (at last) with issue 54 of Mechanical Memories Magazine. Yes, I'm afraid that once again the mag. is a little later than intended, but I'm sure you are all used to it by now. The February issue was late too, and the April mag.?.....well I am hoping that that will be early for a change, because the school holidays start the second weekend in April, and I will of course be open at Brighton throughout the two weeks. So if I can't get the magazine finished and printed before the holidays, then it will become the May issue. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

And talking of Brighton, the Brighton Jukebox Show isn't far away now (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April). So if you are planning a visit and have some spare time after the show, do try to get down and see me on the seafront. If you have never visited my Mechanical Memories arcade, it's really easy to find – on the lower esplanade (beach level) about 100 yards west of the Palace pier.

And finally, I have to hold my hands up to another of my famous typo errors (I meant to mention this last month, but forgot – seems my memory is no better than my spelling). Anyway, the January issue proclaimed on the front cover *Inside this special issue – The Oliver Wales Story* – did anyone spot I had omitted the H in Whales? Well, at least one person did, and it couldn't have been more embarrassing. I sent Stuart a couple of extra copies of the magazine so that he could forward them on to the Whales family, and it was none other than Helen Whales who spotted the mistake! .....Oh bugger.

Till next time, all the best

**Jerry**



# Dreamland

## MARGATE

### Save Dreamland Update March 2011

Various roller coaster builders from around the world have been visiting Dreamland over the last few weeks as we await the deadline for opening the tenders for the rebuild of the Scenic Railway. Scaffolding could start going up within the month, which is very exciting. The Corbiere Wheel has now arrived on the Dreamland site from the yard of Carters Steam Fair, where it was in storage, and a company called Garmendale is being appointed to lay out the Adult and Junior Whip rides and to place the Caterpillar in a watertight container. The two whips will be stored ready for work to be carried out.



*Part of the damaged section of the Scenic Railway, shortly after the fire in 2008. It's good to know that restoration work will commence soon. Photo by Nick Laister.*



Meanwhile, the scaffolding work on the Cinema building is now complete and ready for contractors to begin work. 41 companies responded to our advertisement and 23 have submitted a tender. Exciting times ahead indeed, as we eagerly wait to see who will be joining the Dreamland team next!

To tell Margate's visitors about the work we are doing and the plans for the future Dreamland, The Dreamland Trust has commissioned a 25m hoarding in front of the Marine Terrace Gap. The artwork is being designed by local firm, Designmap, and will be part of a wider promotion for this summer to include a set of special edition postcards, which will no doubt become collector's items. The postcards will be available in the Visitor Information Centre, local businesses and the Thanet Gateway.

And I am sure that the readers of Mechanical Memories Magazine will want to visit a special exhibition at Dreamland this summer. Following the Conservative's return to power in 1951 the work of 'The King of the Saucy Postcard', Donald McGill, came into question when the government decided to crack down on Britain's declining morals following the Second World War. Artwork and literature deemed too rude to view by committees of taste and decency was censored and it was the action of local prudes that led to the prosecution and burning of McGill's postcards by the Margate magistrates court following a series of police raids.

Dreamland Trust Board member and historian, Mandy Wilkins, has been working with Heritage Advisor Nick Dermott and the British Cartoon Archive to exhibit McGill's saucy postcards in the Margate magistrate's court. Members of the public will be able to examine and judge for themselves whether or not McGill's postcards are too rude to view – and it's all done in the best possible taste, of course! Dates to be announced later this spring.

So lots going on, with things likely to accelerate over the coming months as we do our best to focus on getting Dreamland opened for 2012 instead of 2013.

***Nick Laister***

Chairman, The Dreamland Trust

Jan Leandro, Audience Development Officer, The Dreamland Trust

[www.dreamlandmargate.com](http://www.dreamlandmargate.com)

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**by Bill Treen and Robert Deakin**

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The book is a collection of records, recollections and memories of the firm A. Deakin & Sons, illustrated with colour and black & white photos.

**ISBN Number:** NA

**Format:** Hardback

**Number of Pages:** 119

**Publication Date:** 2011

**Publisher:** Bill Treen and Robert Deakin

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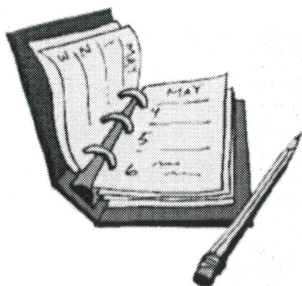


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## *Dates for your diary*

**Brighton Jukebox Show** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Brighton racecourse

**Bonhams Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments Sale** 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Knightsbridge

**Bonhams Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments Sale** 17<sup>th</sup> May  
Knowle

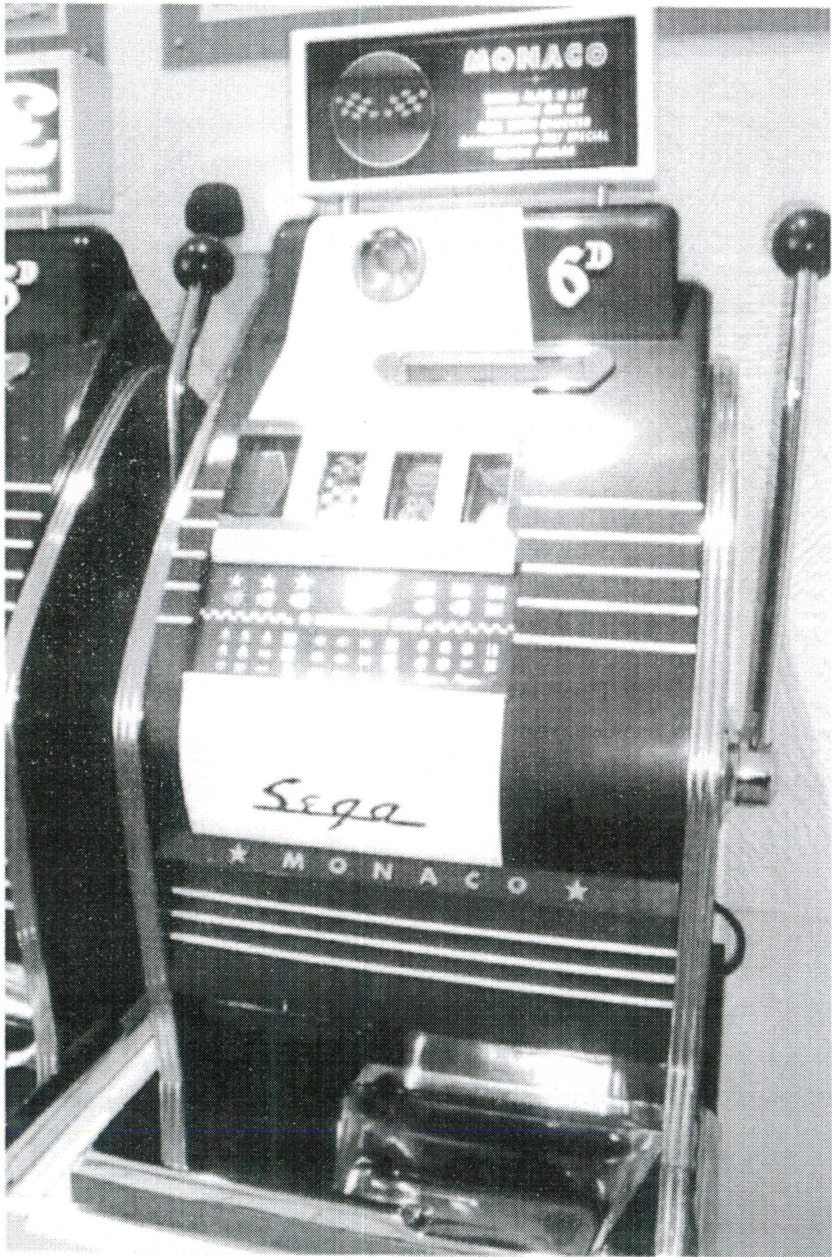
**Carters at Dreamland** 28<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Dreamland, Margate

**Great Dorset Steam Fair** 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. – 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Tarrant Hinton, Dorset

**MMM Vintage Slot Collectors' Show & Auction** 27<sup>th</sup> November  
Provisional – date and venue to be confirmed

**Bonhams Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments Sale** 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Knowle

Don't forget – if you know of any event which would be of interest to readers of the magazine, please let me know so that I can include details on this page.





# My latest Restoration

By Richard Brewerton

My latest restoration is another Sega bandit. I've done four now, my first being a Diamond 3 Star which I bought at the Sarratt auction about three years ago, and the latest a Monaco that I picked up on Ebay. I like these machines, I don't know why. Maybe it's because you can still pick them up for a reasonable price, although having said that, you do occasionally see them on Ebay for stupid money. Maybe it's because I am becoming familiar with the mechanism now and don't need to worry whether I'll ever get that box of bits back together again. Maybe it's because they don't cost a fortune to restore – a few bits of chrome and a few cans of spray paint. Or maybe it's because when they are finished they look all colourful and shiny. Whatever, but when the lights are dimmed and they are all standing in a row lit up like Christmas trees, then I think they look pretty cool.

The Monaco is a version of the Sega that I haven't seen before, nor have I seen one since, so I'm guessing that perhaps it must be less common than the Bonanza Stars or Mad Monies. It's the same basic mechanism and case but the game-play is a bit different. All the symbols on reel one, except one lemon, are displayed against a black and white chequered background. There is no jackpot, instead a tube full of five shilling tokens is mounted at the front of the mechanism and connected by a lever to the top payout slide. A small electrical switch is mounted in the bottom centre of the frame, which is operated by a quadrant shaped lever with ten ratchet teeth around its curved edge. This is operated by one of the horizontal payout fingers. The artwork in the top light box shows two chequered flags which are lit when the switch is operated.

In play, the machine behaves as normal with usual payouts for cherries, plums, oranges etc., but if you are lucky enough to hit three stars, bars or melons then the ratchet lever is released, operating the switch, lighting the chequered flags and away you go. Each subsequent pull of the machine will advance the ratchet one tooth closer and provided you avoid the lemon on the first reel (and you have 19 chances out of 20 that you will) then a token is dispensed. During this time the normal payouts are disabled. And so you go on for the next ten pulls hopefully picking up ten tokens along the way until at last the ratchet lever finally re-operates the switch, extinguishing the chequered flag light in the top box and restoring the normal payout mode.

I have not yet hit the jackpot for real, only simulated one by manually positioning the reels, but when it happens it's quite exciting, more so than just having a jackpot dumped in front of you. Probably not so profitable though. Ten tokens were worth £2 – 10 shillings in old money, less the ten sixpences that you had to feed in to get them, giving a reduced payout of £2 – 5 shillings, which is less than most jackpots hold, but you do get the additional fun factor.



I bet it must have been real pain back in the sixties if you were in an arcade and put your last tanner in this machine and the lights came on. You couldn't leave it for someone else to collect could you?

So that's how it plays, how about the restoration? Pretty straightforward really. Before I stripped it down I had to play with the payout fingers to figure out how it all worked. Quite clever really, but a right temperamental swine to adjust and get working correctly. So many levers and springs all interacting with each other, a real fiddley job. A fair bit of cursing and swearing was also required before the thing would work – it usually helps I find. Each time I thought I'd cracked it and built the rest of the mechanism up, then I'd find that the switch didn't operate or release at just the right time, or it would stick half way, or it wouldn't pay out the ten tokens correctly. Each time I'd have to remove the reel bundle and brakes to get there. I now claim the world record for the fastest strip down of a reel bundle.

Apart from that, the biggest problems were that the light box had been broken off and was in two pieces, and the lock to the back door was missing and the keyhole had been mutilated. So some plates fixed inside the light box to hold it in shape again and car body filler to fill in the cracks and it looks good, at least until I can get a replacement. Similarly, a plate over the old key hole with a nice new round hole cut in it and a new lock. The artwork was touched up on the lap top and reprinted, and we're back in business. In keeping with the motoring theme, I've painted it British Racing Green, with the usual centre white flash. I've rewired the lights, fitted new tubes and a 12v transformer to light the chequered flags.

Yes, very pleased with it. I like these machines – I might be tempted to get another.

***Richard Brewerton***





# Bryans Foursquare

By Robert Rowland

Do any of you remember that Bryans Foursquare that came up for auction on Ebay last October? Well, that was me selling it for a local arcade owner who had owned it from new, but decided that now the space it was taking up could be put to better use. He didn't have the time to list the item himself, so he asked me, adding "there will be a drink in it for you." I jumped at the chance to be the person to advertise the Foursquare, as I was very curious to see who would be showing interest. "Put a reserve of one thousand pounds on it" he said, "I don't fancy giving it away." So I listed it the same night and set a reserve of £999.99.

The machine itself had been stored upstairs in the arcade for over twenty-five years. The Foursquare consisted of three Elevenses and one Pilwin, all four sections operating on our current 1p coin. The three Elevenses were set on all cups displaying WIN, which gave a coin return. The Pilwin also displayed WIN WIN WIN in the mouth area, also resulting in a 1p return. Three of the sections used the same original folk-type key, but the remaining section had a square Yale lock and key. On closer inspection of the doors, I found that three of them had the number 199 just to the left of the payout knob, but the door with the square lock didn't have any signs of a number. Finally, one of the Elevenses had some damage to the backflash but the actual play area was not affected. Overall, the machine was in excellent condition.

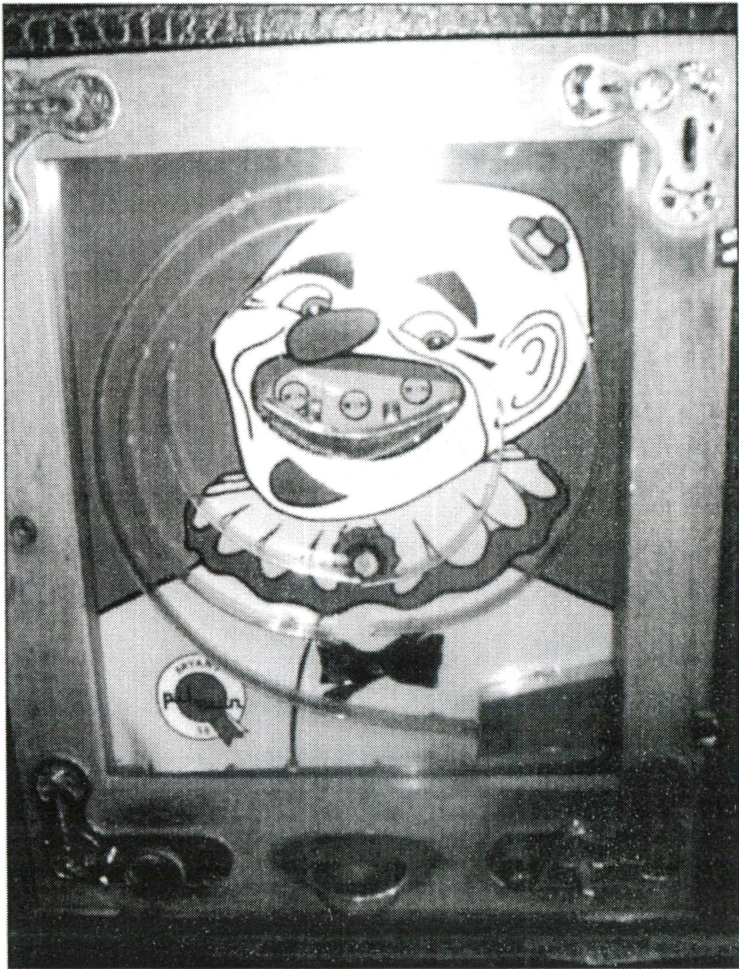
Within minutes of the listing going live, the usual stream of questions started to arrive, all asking the same thing: Do you have a Buy it Now price for this machine? Every half hour that passed, the price increased, and after two hours the highest bid stood at £700. At 11.34 the same night, the price went from red to green, meaning that within just over five hours of the Foursquare being listed, the owner's reserve price had been met – and to think that he was worried that he may be giving it away!

The next seven days of the auction brought nothing, other than an increased number of watchers which rose to sixty-eight. Later on that seventh day, the highest bidder placed a higher bid on top, showing at £1045.00. The final day of the auction arrived, and as each hour and minute ticked by, there was still no change. Finally, with seventy-two seconds left, £1081.00 was bid. This was not enough though, because a new bidder came in with seven seconds remaining and edged the others out for the final price of £1120.00. Yet again on Ebay, the last bidder coming in won the item. What the hell were those early bids all about? Not one of you got it. Some of you will maybe even read this article – do you ever actually get anything at all? Or are you simply the front-runner, waiting to be pipped at the post. I would really love to know!



The winning bidder, to his credit, got in touch via email just after the auction had ended. Five days later and the buyer arrived in Mablethorpe. After a handshake with the owner, we all made our way to the upstairs of the arcade to view the Foursquare. "Very nice" said the buyer. He then handed over the cash payment.

The first thing the buyer did was to remove all four doors off their hinges. After that, he released the Foursquare top by loosening four bolts, which left only the base. Next, two men carried the base down the stairs, but at the bottom of the stairs the base would not fit through the door into the arcade.

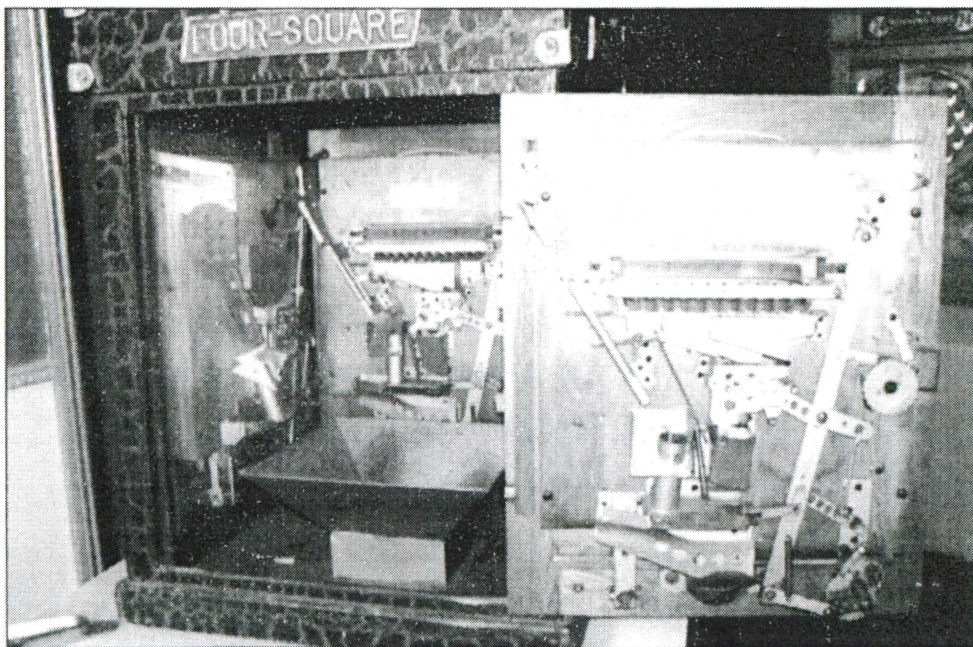


*The Pilwin allwin in the Foursquare.*

They moved it this way, tipped and turned it that way, but it was simply too big. "I got it up there" said the boss. The buyer then replied "Well, it won't go through now pal." Back upstairs it went. The buyer then went out to his car and came back with a screwdriver, a pair of pliers and a large hammer. After ten minutes of huffing and puffing, hammering and loosening rusted-in screws and bolts, the buyer managed to remove two of the ashtrays. This action then released a further section of the base top. With this section now removed, they carried it down the stairs again. Damn – still about an inch too wide. So the door at the bottom of the stairs was removed and the base finally went through into the arcade, much to the relief of everyone concerned I bet the buyer never bargained on that lot! Five minutes later and the Foursquare was in his car and he was on his way back home.

This turned out to be a very interesting project that I took on, and I can honestly say that I really enjoyed it from start to finish.

### ***Robert Rowland***



*The Foursquare with one door open.*



# A Lasting Laughing Memory

by Richard Goddard

One of my earliest childhood memories of the arcade was at the seaside. I was around 5 years old so it would have been mid 1950's. I vividly remember standing in front of a large box, it had glass on the front and inside was a figure of a man and when a penny was inserted in the slot the figure would move and laugh, and laugh, and laugh.

This experience etched a deep imprint on my memory for two reasons: firstly I had never heard or seen such a thing before and secondly I was so spellbound by this that I just stood and looked while my parents, aunt and uncle, oblivious of my fixation, went onto the pier without me, not noticing that I had stopped walking with them!

The automaton was located at the front entrance of a pier and I well remember the large space between it and the pier entrance, as it was bustling with people. I cannot remember at which resort we were staying but it would have been in the Southwest, perhaps Weymouth, but more likely Teignmouth or Paignton. I don't know how long I was standing there looking and listening to this amazing item; I didn't even know that I was on my own until my uncle came rushing up saying something like *'what are doing here, come on!'* That memory has stayed with me and I can still remember it vividly 56 years on.

When I became hooked on this fascinating hobby of ours a number of years ago, I started to look for any information about the Laughing Policeman; yes, that's not a missprint, I said Laughing Policeman and it was the first experience of anything coin operated that I can remember; an indelible memory. However, I could not find anything at all about him. I did find pictures and many video clips of the Laughing Sailor and also a sound file of the Sailor on the Pennymachines website, but alas no Policeman and I was so sure that this was what I had seen and indeed heard, all those years ago.

They say that memories can fade over the years and that you can also come to believe in things and experiences that are a corruption of your original experience. So was it a Sailor or as I had thought, a Policeman? Well, after so many years of not seeing one or being able to find any reference to one, I reluctantly accepted that indeed it was a Laughing Sailor and that my memory was really playing tricks on me. But deep at the back of my mind there was something not right and I was still puzzled, as I was sure that the automaton was laughing to music, and that music was the Laughing Policeman by Charles Penrose recorded in 1922. When our girls were young we bought a Children's music tape (Hello Children Everywhere - Uncle Mac, remember him?) and on it was the Laughing Policeman. When I heard it, it brought back those early childhood seaside memories of being transfixed by this character - or so I thought.



I have always considered that I possess a fairly good long term retentive memory but over the past few years had to resign myself, somewhat disappointedly, to the fact that what I had seen was a Laughing Sailor..... until recently when I was browsing eBay and found a Laughing Policeman!!



*The Laughing Policeman on Ebay (detail on Front Cover).*

I could not believe it, I was so pleased that my memory was in fact correct; there it was, in its case displaying all its glory, as will be seen from the photos he is a fairly basic character and the case style suggests an early example. It brought back all those memories of that seaside experience, standing in front of the pier watching and listening to this Laughing Policeman. The only sad part of this tale is that I just do not have room for this in our house; otherwise I would have bid on it!

The seller put a link to Youtube showing a video of it working and I have visited it a couple of times - oh those memories! I have since discovered that there is a working version in the Hull Museum of Transport, although this looks to be much later than the eBay automaton but still using the Charles Penrose recording (apologies for the awful photo, it is a screen shot of the poor quality Youtube video).

So my memory was not playing tricks on me after all and I did, all those years ago, see and hear the Laughing Policeman; a pleasing thought. I still have one question; does anyone have any information about this piece of coin-op nostalgia? I would be very interested to learn more.

***Richard Goddard***



*Screen shot from the Youtube video of the Laughing Policeman at the Hull museum.*



# Wordsearch

British Seaside Piers – How many can you find?

Compiled by Stuart Dale

N	G	H	F	H	T	X	V	J	S	D	B	J	C	S	T	N	D	J	R
A	O	V	Y	H	N	O	W	D	Q	Y	O	M	G	U	T	Q	M	H	B
D	S	T	E	J	Z	C	R	C	E	M	U	O	I	M	H	R	F	P	L
C	E	U	C	W	A	R	W	Q	H	A	Q	S	W	F	B	G	O	C	A
L	L	K	K	A	O	B	Q	H	U	Y	L	C	Y	T	A	N	B	C	C
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T	U	K	R	I	N	U	E	X	R	S	H	P	D	U	V	V	L	B	O
H	M	D	P	S	L	O	B	N	I	N	L	E	S	F	I	E	E	F	O
O	U	O	A	K	Z	U	T	T	R	L	E	R	B	T	C	A	D	M	L
R	J	N	I	E	I	K	N	H	L	U	E	M	U	M	U	C	R	O	O
P	M	D	G	G	P	H	H	S	G	A	O	F	O	M	O	A	H	J	N
E	C	U	N	N	E	A	Y	B	V	I	S	B	A	U	W	C	M	K	P
S	M	D	T	E	N	S	T	Y	B	L	R	R	T	O	T	D	S	P	X
G	C	N	O	S	A	T	H	B	W	U	I	B	P	S	L	H	G	O	C
N	K	A	N	S	R	I	E	G	K	S	P	C	Q	M	A	J	F	D	B
P	J	L	O	O	T	N	H	N	N	R	C	Y	C	P	K	E	V	Z	K
Y	T	L	Y	V	H	G	D	Y	K	C	R	O	M	E	R	O	X	D	M
I	S	O	B	R	V	S	X	B	R	W	A	I	B	K	P	I	M	F	X
G	G	L	G	R	X	Y	S	O	U	T	H	P	O	R	T	H	X	O	L

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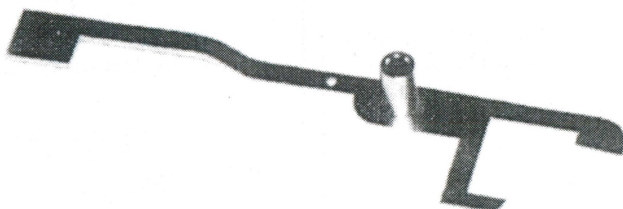
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## **Saxony type ball release levers**

Suitable for all Saxony and early British allwins,  
Hawtins, Oliver Whales, Parkers etc.

Limited stocks available

£12 each inc. UK p&p

3 for £25 inc. UK p&p

Cheques to:

Jerry Chattenton, 10 Bedford Road, Dartford DA1 1SR

## **Wanted**

**Small BMCo allwin**

**Anything considered**

**Jerry 07710 285360**

**Jerry.mmm@tiscali.co.uk**

# **MECHANICAL MEMORIES MAGAZINE**

## **BACK ISSUES**

<b>Volume I (April 06 – March 07)</b>	<b>£15</b>
<b>Volume II (April 07 – March 08)</b>	<b>£15</b>
<b>Volume III (April 08 – March 09)</b>	<b>£15</b>
<b>Volume IV (April 09 – March 10)</b>	<b>£12</b>

**Individual issues £1.50 (from April 09 only)**

**Prices include UK postage**

**Please note:**

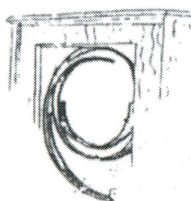
**There will be no more reprints  
When they're gone, they're gone**

**Cheques to:**

**Jerry Chattenton**

**10 Bedford Road, Dartford DA1 1SR**





## ALLWIN TRACK

Grooved & chromed just like the original.

*Inner* with flat & nipple  
17½" inside length  
*Middle* 18" inside length  
*Outer* 40" inside length

## ALLWIN SPARES

From Stock

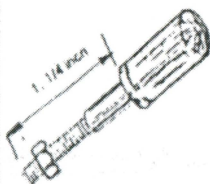
Nostalgic Machines Ltd.  
P.O. Box 32, Wombourne,  
South Staffs WV5 8YS  
Tel / Fax 01902 897879



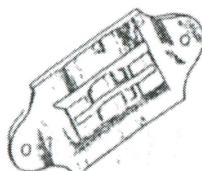
Win Tabs. Red printer  
on Silver foil sticky  
backed 12 on a sheet!



CHROMED 7 ball win  
gallery. 6 x 1. 9/16



CHROMED THUMB  
STOP



COIN SLOT  
to suit 2p but can  
be filed bigger

## PRICE LIST

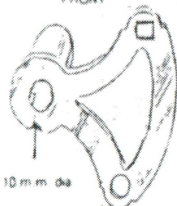
N01 Win Tabs (12 per  
sheet) £15.25

N02 Ball Gallery £12.55

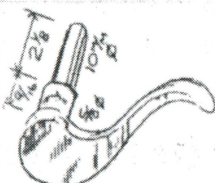
N03 Thumb Stop £6.25

N04 Coin Slot (2p)  
£9.25

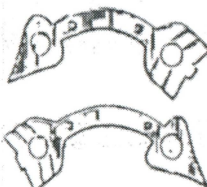
CHROMED TRIGGER  
FRONT



10 mm dia



TRIGGER



CHROMED ARROWS  
Reversible.

N05 Trigger Front £9.25

N06 Trigger £12.25

N07 Payout Arrow  
£2.55

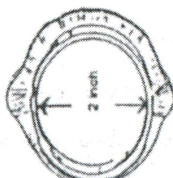
N08 Payout Bowl &  
Surround £15.55

CHROMED PAYOUT BOWL

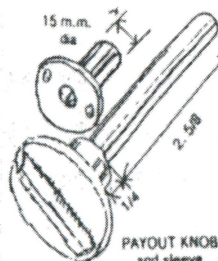


2.5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing  
squares at 3.75 inch centres.

CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on  
extended nipples 2. 1/2 centres.



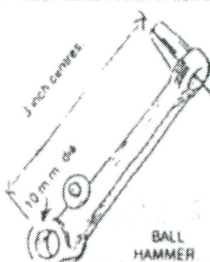
PAYOUT KNOB  
and sleeve

N09 Payout Knob  
Shield £9.95

N10 Payout Knob &  
Sleeve £11.95

N11 Ball Hammer £4.95

N12 Ball Cups  
1-5 £9.99each  
6-10 £7.99each  
11+ £5.99each

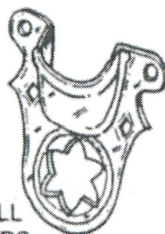


BALL  
HAMMER

## SPANDRELLS



BALL  
CUPS



N13 Spandrells £14.99

N14 Allwin Track  
inner £19.00  
middle £19.00  
outer £23.50  
set of 3 £47.00

All prices include  
VAT @ 17.5% and P&P.  
Discount for quantity  
orders - please ring.

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(2nd edition with revised priceguide) by Dick Bueschel.

Chapters on scales, vending, arcade, slots, jukes, pins and stimulators. Attractive book, well researched and illustrated, featuring 700 machines all in colour.

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The spirit of the Mills Novelty Company in the hectic Thirties is conveyed in their product brochures, service literature, and in editorial matter from Spinning Reels (the company's own trade journal), together with press releases, promotional literature, advertising flyers etc. in The Billboard trade magazine. Excellent source book.

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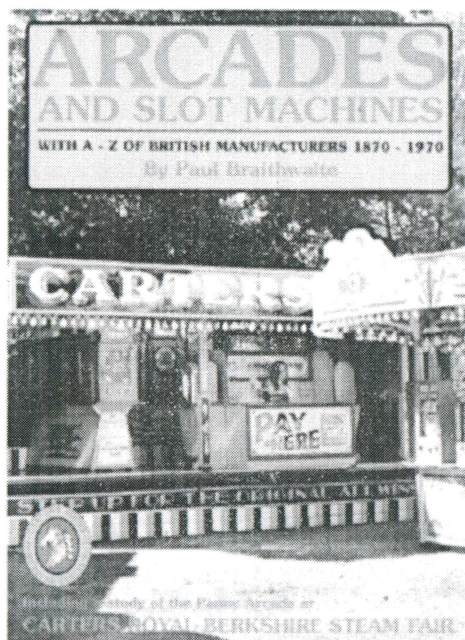


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Thoroughly researched A - Z survey of the British coin slot industry from 1870 - 1970. Includes a history of travelling, pier-head and town arcades, plus plenty of photos of familiar and rare machines. The definitive British slot machine collector's identification guide. Softback, 105 pages, colour & b/w. **Price: £12**

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